

Serial No. 10/053,743
Atty. Docket No. 6676/31033

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action of Paper No. 12, mailed November 3, 2003. Claims 1, 3-14, 16-20 and 22-25 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-14 and 16-20 have been indicated as allowable. Claim 1 has been amended slightly to attend to some informalities and its scope has not been changed by the amendment herein. Claim 1 is submitted to be in a condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 21 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Showalter in view of Tucker. Claim 21 has been canceled and claim 22 has been amended into independent form incorporating therein the limitations of claim 21 as originally presented in the application at filing. As indicated in the Office Action of Paper No. 8 and Paper No. 12, claim 22 is now in a condition for allowance.

Claims 23-24 depend from claim 22 and these claims are also submitted to be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 25 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 22. Claim 25 is now submitted to be in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the above-referenced application is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if any other matters require resolution prior to notification of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
THOMPSON COBURN LLP
By: 
Matthew J. Hinrich, Reg. #47650
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
Telephone: 314-552-6299
Fax: 314-552-7299